some effort, directly, is being made in that direction with a plan.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, a plan will emerge after we have set up this body, but I must say this, that it is not as though we are going to depend only on the most modern technology. We have a base of industry in this country which is producing all kind of weapons, systems, transport equipment and the like. It is a very wide range, and today many countries in the world are buying this. After all, Pakistan is exporting, China is exporting, so many other small countries are exporting—and they are not exporting the latest technology. In fact, we are very good at some of the latest technology. But the ordinary, day-to-day requirements of small arms and ammunition, etc., are exported by other countries and there is no reason for us not to tap that market also.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM INDONESIA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us this morning, seated in the Special Box, members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Indonesia which is currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His excellency Mr. Soeryadi, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a very hearty welcome to the Leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests a very enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between us. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of the Indonesian Parliament and the friendly people of Indonesia.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—Contd.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, the idea of defence exports is a very good idea because it will lead to scale economies and reduce the cost of production of the arms within our own country. I would like to know two things from the Minister: One: Is there a policy as to on which areas you are going to target for the exports? Are you going to sell to whoever wants to buy from you? Two: Will you give this assurance in the House here and place it on record that in the export of arms you will not employ middlemen and pay commissions in foreign countries.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, so far as the first question goes, there are some countries to which we will not export. The Minister of External Affairs has given us a list, and we will be careful that we do not export to those countries, and if necessary we may even consult them further where necessary.

So far as the second question is concerned, after we set up an autonomous organisation, it will have to proceed and find out what the best way is of effecting exports, and there I am not going to tie their hands.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: You mean that you won't rule it out. Is that what you are saying?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes, that is what I am saying.

Plan outlay for Assam

*162. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per capita plan outlay of the Seventh Five Year Plan for Assam is less than half of that of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and

Kashmir and the neighbouring North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Assam is included in the special category of States; and

(c) if so, whether the per capita plan outlay for Assam is justified in view of the backward economy of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c) The State Plan Outlays are determined not on the basis of per capita but on the basis of availability of resources. The resources include its own and from the Centre. Per Capita outlay is only a derivative of the total outlay divided by the population. In terms of per capita, however, Assam's State Plan outlay is less than that of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the neighbouring North-Eastern States. Assam is included in the Special Category of States.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, the hon. Minister very clearly admitted that the per capita Plan outlay is less than that of other States. The hon. Minister does not give the real reply. What is the reason behind it? Why Assam's per capita Plan outlay is less than that of Jammu and Kashmir and other States? What is the basis of lowering Assam's Plan outlay? How much is it less per capita and how much in absolute terms? I would like to repeat: What is the reason behind this lower per-capita outlay in Assam? What is the reason? What is the basis? How much is it? What is it in absolute terms?

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: Sir, I have replied in my main reply that plan outlays are not allocated on per-capita basis. The reasons I have explained in the written reply

So far as she wanted to know about the actual allocation...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: The Minister is fumbling. Probably he has not done proper homework.

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: No, Sir, she is asking aoout the reason why the per-capita allocation is less. I have explained it in the written reply that it is not determined on the basis of per capita but plan allocations take into account availability of resources, to both of the State and Centre and also on nature of schemes.

Sir, the total outlay for Assam for the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 2,100 crores, and that per capita for Assam is Rs. 919. The total Central assistance was to be Rs. 2,057 crores during the Seventh Five Year Plan, but within the Seventh Five Year Plan which have been finalised it is to the tune of about Rs 2,580 crores. Sir, we are giving more than what has been provided for the Seventh Five Year Plan. So, they are getting more.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: That is not the question. Anyway, I have got no other way except to switch over to my second supplementary. I wanted to know categorically : what is the reason How much is it less. That answer has not been given.

Moreover, Sir, Assam is a high revenue-paying State, and 66 per cent of foreign exchange from tea is being earned from Assam tea alone. Whenever a demand for stepping up of the State Plan is made, the usual reply is that Assam's financial resources do not permit it. So, Assam's present economic backwardness can be directly attributed to the failure to provide adequate outlay for the State Plans in the different Plan periods in the past. Even though it comes, the per-capita outlay is very less, and it has caused low per capita income in the State. Sir, this is a golden eggs producing State—that is Assam produces valuable foreign exchange. More damage has been done to the State by lowering the Plan outlay. The net result is that in 1982-83, the per capita income growth was only 0.2 whereas at the all-India level it is 1.1. In the face of the dismal picture of the State, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is of the opinon that the minimum Plan outlay of the Seventh Plan will further reverse the economic progress rate of the State of Assam and would cause further damage to the already cripped economy

of the State caused by floods and droughts. Moreover, as the State of Assam falls under the Special Category States, I would like to know whether the Minister will deem it fit to consider the case of Assam as a special State.

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: As I said in my reply, Assam State has been categorised as a Special Category State. I do agree with the hon. Member that there are some problems in Assam. Like the hon. Member, I also come from that particular State. I do agree that more and more Central assistance is required and that Assam should get more. Now, as per our formula, as I said earlier, Assam is getting much more during the Seventh Five Year Plan than what it is entitled to. As I mentioned earlier, the percentage of Central assistance to the total Plan outlay in Assam is about 98 per cent. It is high. It is not that the Central Government is not giving any assistance. So, it is wrong to say that the Central Government is not paying any attention to the State of Assam.

Reason why Assam is not getting more than other Special Category States is that except two hilly districts Assam has plain areas and it is an old State. Moreover the State has got its resources, and industries are also there. So, the State can mobilise its resources. You cannot equate Assam State with the newly created States like Mizoram and Nagaland. Once they were simply districts. Later on, they were converted into States. Moreover, in hilly regions like Mizoram and Nagaland, cost is more because of lack of road and rail communications and other facilities, whereas in Assam, which is in the plains, these facilities are available. So, you cannot compare the cost of living in the hilly areas and in plain areas of Assam.

As per our information, the Planning Commission has given much more attention to the State of Assam and that the Assam Government is getting more.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Sometimes we as representatives of the people have to voice their opinion. They don't believe in saying that the figures do not lie, but they believe more in the saying 'liar's figures'. Sometimes we hear people of Assam want more financial assistance. Our Prime Minister is here. He has got soft corner and concern for all the North-Eastern States. So far as economic development is concerned, we have no fight with the AGP or with the CPI(M) or with any other party. We are interested in the economic development of the State of Assam. As we are not getting proper financial assistance from the Centre, I would request the hon. Planning Minister, who is here, and also the Minister of State for Planning, who comes from Assam, to enhance the Plan outlay for Assam so that the projects could be taken up. I would like to know from the hon. Planning Minister if he could reconsider the question of raising the Central financial assistance to the Flood Control Department. The Silchar town itself is facing the acute problem of erosion. By the side of this town, there is river Barak, which is threatening to change its course. When we approached the State Government, they say they don't have adequate financial assistance from the Centre so that this project could be taken up. Would the hon. Planning Minister give an assurance that he will look into this matter and give proper financial assistance and see that the Plan assistance is given to the Flood Control Department of Assam so that this project in Silchar could be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): It is not the financial assistance given to the State alone that leads to the development of the State. It is the efforts also on the part of the State which would lead to its development. In the reply it is stated that while plan outlays are prepared it is the Central assistance which is in sight plus the efforts of States to mobilise resources that are taken into consideration. The hon. Member is right that the Prime Minister has always tried to help the Special Category States and particularly those States which are afflicted by natural calamities. Sufficient help has already been given. As the Minister of State has said about 98 per cent of the Assam's

Plan is funded by the Central Government. But, Sir, I must point out to the Member that State's efforts to raise resources are not forthconing. Actually, the natural resources which are about available in Assam are also not being fully exploited. There are 27 lakh hectares of net sown area and generally one crop is taken. So the agriculturists spend 5-6 months in agricultural operations. For the rest of the period there is no activity for them. But there are maximum hours of bandhs and strikes in Assam which have led to low productivity of the State. The Planning Commission formulated a Special strategy for flood free lands where three crops could be taken in the same land. But that is also not being implemented in spite of the poor resource position of the State. The Centre has tried to help them in every possible manner. I think it is up to the State Government itself to work out the strategy as to how the State could be developed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You continue to help....

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): May I add a little bit to that, Sir? The hon. Member has raised the question of floods and flood control When I visited Assam at the time of the severe floods last year, I had a very long meeting with most of the members of the Government—the Ministers and the Secretaries—and we discussed in very great detail about what could be done to prevent floods in Assam specially in the Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley. One of the questions that the Government of Assam raised was that we were not helping them with the complete flood protection plan for the Brahmaputra valley. Now that plan is somewhere between Rs. 20,000 crores and Rs. 30,000 crores. It is a massive plan. I went out on a limb risking a lot from the Planning Ministry and the Finance Ministry and I gave them a commitment saying that yes, I will push your plan through for Rs. 20,000 crores or Rs. 30,000 crores or whatever it is, but I want one commitment from the Government of Assam that they will do the maintenance as they are required to do under the present scheme of things. The Assam Government categorically refused to do the maintenance and for one hour I argued with them and I said, "Look I am giving you something which you will never get. Why don't you give a commitment to do the maintenance?" They refused to do it. Sir, it is not just a question of funds but it is a question of the will of the Government to work for the people.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, with the due honour and respect, I want to raise a point. My point is that the Brahmaputra is an international....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put your two supplementaries. After some time, Mr. Saikia will get a chance to speak, you tell him to include it in his supplementary ...(*Interruptions*)... No talk like this, please.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, if you go through the statistics of the Plan outlay except the Seventh Five Year Plan in all the plans the outlay for Assam was less han 3 per cent. If you take the case of Tamil Nadu and some other States, it is always less than the national average. But if you go through the statistics of the Plan outlays of some other States—I do not want to name those States because it will cause an embarrassing situation to the hon. Members belonging to those States right from the First Five Year Plan, it is always above the national level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why there is such discrimination, why there is such patronage towards some States. Due to this, I am trying to come to the conclusion that it is mostly politically motivated in giving Plan outlays. I would like to know the reasons from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, it might be that Tamil Nadu has a weak Chief Minister. (*Interruption*).

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I do not want any advocate for my case.

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Sir, it is absolutely incorrect that any discrimination is made against any State with regard to the Central assistance. The Central assistance is given on the basis of Gadgil formula, agreed by the National Development Council, where all the State Chief Ministers were a party and no discrimination at all is being made in the working out of the allocation to each State. As regards Assam, in the current year 1988-89, a Plan outlay of Rs. 610 crores for Assam was approved but the State has not been able to sustain it and they have to request the Planning Commission to reduce the plan outlay. So, Rs. 100 crores had to be reduced and the Plan for this year is only Rs. 510 crores. Sir, in spite of that, for the next year, with the assurances given by the Chief Minister that he would try to raise resources etc., the Planning Commission has fixed the Plan outlay to Rs. 635 crores which comes to 24.5 per cent more than the current year. So there is no question of any discrimination against any State.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, frankly speaking, what the Prime Minister said is shocking because normally the States, whenever such offer is made as in the present case, accept what they will get and in future when they are in difficulty, blame the Centre again. I do not know why they did not accept the proposal of the Prime Minister straight way. I would have straightway accepted this offer of Rs. 20,000 crores. Be that as it may, the devastation caused by the floods in the Brahmaputra is colossal and it is always there every year. So, may I know apart from anything else, maybe, what the Prime Minister thought is extremely gigantic, on a pragmatic, realistic basis, why does not the Planning Commission take up embankment which would not cost Rs. 100 crores and save the people of Assam from the devastation on account of the Brahmaputra year after year?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Sir, it is purely a technical question whether within Rs. 100 crores, the problem would be solved. This matter...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: That is the figure given by the State Government.

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Only the Minister in charge could reply to that.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, how is that Assam which contributes to the country's economy more than any other State, which produces oil, tea etc. gets always less than any other State? Even small State like Himachal Pradesh and the neighbouring States....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question please.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: My question is, how is it then, Sir, the Prime Minister has stated that he is ready to give Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000 crores to Assam for controlling the Brahmaputra? He knows it that continuous floods have completely broken down the State's economy. So, is it possible for a small State like Assam to maintain the mightly river like the Brahmaputra with its small resources? It is the duty of the Union Government to have....(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, put your question.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister what benefit is going to be given to Assam under Special category State?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: There are a number of benefits given to Special Category State. The hill areas which comprise parts of Assam, are also getting 90 per cent grant and only 10 per cent loan. Besides, for the north eastern region, some special concessions are made with regard to the industrialisation of backward areas. These States are placed in category A for Central investment subsidy where 25 per cent capital subsidy is given in investment and Rs. 25 lakhs is

the ceiling for general industries and Rs. 50 lakhs for electronic industries in the hill districts. Also, 90 per cent transport subsidy is given. And because of the situation and the backwardness, when special schemes are brought out, assistance is given to them.

Abolition of fees for the U.P.S.C. examination

*163. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand from the student community that the examination fees for the competitive examinations/tests conducted by the UPSC be abolished for the economically weaker sections and the middle class people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, such suggestoins have been made in Parliament. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who appear at the competitive examinations conducted by the UPSC are fully exempt from the prescribed examination fees.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Sir, I am happy to know that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are given exemption from examination fees for UPSC examinations. But the reply given is very brief. I want more details. The term 'economically weaker sections' includes physically handicapped also. So I would like to know whether physically handicapped candidates are provided exemption from paying UPSC examination fees Now I come to part (b) of my supplementary. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates who pass the preliminary examinations of the UPSC find it difficult to undergo further training in the institutes owing to financial constraints. I want to know whether the Government is providing financial assistance to those candidates and if not, whether the Government will provide them with such financial assistance.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, physically handicapped candidates are also exempt from payment of application and examinations fees in respect of recruitment to Group C and Group B non-gazetted posts. As regards financial assistance, Sir, the answer is: No. This Ministry is not providing any financial assistance. But we are persuading the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Welfare to join in working out a scheme by which more coaching centres can be established, where these candidates can be coached.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: My second supplementary is as follows. It is a fact that the tribal and weaker sections of the population are indifferent in appearing at UPSC examinations because of financial difficulties. Because their dwelling place is in remote areas, it is difficult for them to afford the expenses to appear at UPSC examinations. Examination centres are often too far away from their places of dwelling. Therefore, it was the proposal of the Government to set up UPSC examination centres in tribal and remote areas to attract more candidates from rural areas for IAS, IPS and other Civil Services examinations. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether such centres have been opened and if they are opened, the names of the centres.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a very large number of centres have been established by the UPSC. More and more centres are being established. If the hon. Member wishes I can send him a list of the centres. If he has a particular place in mind where he thinks a centre should be opened, he can let me know the name of the place and it will be duly communicated.

श्री अजीत जोगी : मान्यवर, मैं अपना प्रश्न मध्य प्रदेश के आदिवासियों के संबंध में